



Monday, September 13th 2021

Lunchtime Worship

St. John's acknowledges that the Church buildings, and all living in Victoria, are on the ancestral lands of the Lekwungen speaking people.

Gathering to worship

Let us worship the Divine: Creator, Word and Spirit

All **Amen**

God is with you

All **And also with you.**

This is the day that the Divine has made

All **We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Opening Prayer

All **Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray.
Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth
Amen**

Blessed is the Creator

All **for God has heard the voice of our prayer.**

[. Psalms 28:2, 7, 8-9](#)

R. (6) Blessed be the Lord, for he has heard my prayer.

² Hear the sound of my pleading, when I cry to you,
lifting up my hands toward your holy shrine.

R.Blessed be the Lord, for he has heard my prayer.

⁷ The LORD is my strength and my shield.
In him my heart trusts, and I find help;
then my heart exults, and with my song I give him thanks.

R.Blessed be the Lord, for he has heard my prayer.

⁸ The LORD is the strength of his people,
the saving refuge of his anointed.

⁹ Save your people, and bless your inheritance;
feed them, and carry them forever!

R.Blessed be the Lord, for he has heard my prayer.

Collect of the day:

KEEP, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy Church with thy perpetual mercy; and, because the frailty of man without thee cannot but fall, keep us ever by thy help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our humanity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Amen

A prayer for children

Loving God,
your Son told his disciples
to become like little children.
Lead us to work for the welfare
and protection of all young people.
May we respect their dignity
that they may flourish in life,
following the example of our Lord.
Amen.

Affirmation

With people everywhere
All **We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity
Planted more deeply than all that is wrong**

With all creation
All **We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life.
The unfolding purposes of God, forever at work
In ourselves and the world**

Iona Abbey Worship Book

Our prayers;

Generous God, who gives justice to those who are oppressed and food to those who hunger: Hear us as we offer our prayers on behalf of our community.

For the Church: Fill us with generosity and faith, that we may reflect your loving compassion and grace throughout creation. Give strength and compassion to our new Deacons, that they may go out into the world with a message of caring and love. May they enrich others and join in their journeys of faith and fulfillment.

For the World: You love and care for the righteous as well as the stranger, O God: Enlighten our leaders and all in authority to forego the appearance of piety, the abuse of privilege, and the selfishness of power; that they may lift up those who are bowed down, and lead generously on behalf of the humble.

For those in Need: You see when the poor and humble give generously out of their poverty and when the privileged and wealthy contribute out of their abundance: Be present in your mercy with those in any kind of need. We pray for those enduring drought, wildfires, and hurricanes; that they will find relief and safety.

For this City and Province: You call all in our community to the responsibilities of stewardship and mutual care: Grant us everything necessary for our common life and lead us to share so freely that none may be alone or in want. And may visitors to our Island home have a safe and fun time.

God of compassion,

your love for humanity was revealed in Jesus,
whose earthly life began in the poverty of a stable
and ended in the pain and isolation of the cross:
we hold before you those who are homeless and cold.
Draw near and comfort them in spirit
and bless those who work to provide them
with shelter, food and friendship.

For those troubled by the choices that have to be made in this pandemic,
grant them strength of purpose and mind to make decisions that benefit
everyone and lead to returning to a safe and open lifestyle.

During this time may our Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.

Grant peace.

Grant comfort.

Grant healing.

Be with us, Lord. Amen.

All Gracious God,
accept these prayers
In the name of our brother, Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

Let us say together:

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.

Song for Autumn, a poem by Mary Oliver

In the deep fall
don't you imagine the leaves think how
comfortable it will be to touch
the earth instead of the
nothingness of air and the endless
freshets of wind? And don't you think
the trees themselves, especially those with mossy,
warm caves, begin to think

of the birds that will come — six, a dozen — to sleep
inside their bodies? And don't you hear
the goldenrod whispering goodbye,
the everlasting being crowned with the first
tuffets of snow? The pond
vanishes, and the white field over which
the fox runs so quickly brings out
its blue shadows. And the wind pumps its
bellows. And at evening especially,
the piled firewood shifts a little,
longing to be on its way.

~ Mary Oliver

Thank you for spending this time with us today.

All Go in peace to love and serve.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

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